



# County Services Committee Minutes

Lee County, Illinois

Mar 12, 2024 at 9:00 AM CDT

Old Lee County Courthouse, Third Floor Boardroom, 112 E 2nd St, Dixon, IL 61021

## I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chair Jack Skrogstad.

## II. Committee Member Roll Call: Chair Jack Skrogstad, Vice Chair Dean Freil, Katie White, Ron Gascoigne, Reed Akre, Ali Huss

Jack Skrogstad, Dean Freil, Ron Gascoigne, Reed Akre, and Ali Huss all attended in person. Katie White was absent.

Also present: Keane Hudson, Tom Kitson, and Mike Koppien (Board Members), Dave Anderson (County Engineer/Highway Department), Charley Boonstra (State's Attorney), Sami Elarifi (GIS Coordinator), Jeremy Englund (Administrator), Greg Gates (LOTS), Logan Griswold (GIS Technician), Alice Henkel (Zoning Administrator), Nancy Petersen (County Clerk and Recorder), and Becky Brenner (Board Secretary) all attended in person.

## III. Public Attendees

Courtney Kennedy, Scott Remer, and William Hantzmon all attended in person on behalf of Steward Creek Solar, LLC., to answer any questions the Committee Members might have regarding petition 23-P-1617 that is on the agenda.

## IV. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Meeting - (February 13, 2024)

Minutes from the February 13, 2024, County Services Committee Meeting were approved as presented without modification.

## V. Transportation/Solid Waste

### A. *Monthly Report*

Dave Anderson walked the committee through the report that he submitted and the five (5) action items on the agenda. Dave explained that action items 1, 2, and 3 below are required to upgrade a section of Chicago Road to truck route status. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

### B. *Highway Department*

#### 1. *Appropriation Resolution for County Matching Funds*

Dave Anderson explained that the County Board had already appropriated County Matching funds when they approved the 2024 budget. However, IDOT required a specific appropriation for this project.

**Motion** to move the Appropriation Resolution for County Matching Funds to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County

Board agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. *Resolution Establishing a Class II Truck Route*

Dave Anderson explained that this resolution was required by IDOT to designate the project as a Class II Truck Route.

**Motion** to move the Resolution Establishing a Class II Truck Route to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda.

**Moved** by Ali Huss. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

3. *Joint Funding Agreement for State Participation*

**Motion** to move the Joint Funding Agreement for State Participation to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda.

**Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

4. *Awarding of Bids Listed on the Attached Letting Summary*

Dave Anderson reported that the Highway Department had a bid opening on Friday, March 8, 2024, the results are listed below, and detailed information can be found on the Highway Department website.

SECTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOW BIDDER	BID PRICE
24-XX000-03-GM	Township Aggregate	All Bidders	n/a
24-00000-03-GM	County Aggregate	All Bidders	n/a
24-XX000-05-GM	Dust Palliative	Gassaway Distributors	\$404.50/FI Ton
24-00000-02-GM	County Shoulder Stone (applied on road)	Universal Asphalt	\$44,200
24-00000-00-GM	County HMA (Maytown Road)	Martin & Company	\$431,225.20
24-09000-00-GM	Hamilton Twp HMA	Martin & Company	\$184,3836.00
24-13000-00-GM	May Twp. HMA	Advanced Asphalt	\$241,495.65
24-22000-00-GM	Wyoming Twp. HMA	Martin & Company	\$338,409.20

a. *Bid Results from March 8, 2024*

**Motion** to award the bids, as presented to the committee, subject to the Highway Commissioner concurrence, as applicable, and IDOT review. **Moved** by Reed Akre. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. *Certificate of Authority*

Dave Anderson explained that this item pertained to the County's bulk salt purchase. This year CMS required the County Board to authorize Dave Anderson to sign the joint purchasing contract for salt for submission prior to April 7, 2024.

**Motion** to move the Certificate of Authority to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the March County Board agenda. **Moved** by Ali Huss.

**Second** by Ron Gascoigne. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. *Solid Waste Management*

Dave Anderson reported that electronics recycling will be starting again in April. The contract is in place with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for recycling E-waste in 2024. He also explained that a temporary worker will be employed through Hughes Resources to help deal with the material coming in.

VI. Assessor's Office - GIS Department

A. *Assessor's Office*

1. *Monthly Report*

Jennifer Boyd was not able to attend the meeting. Jeremy Englund walked the committee through the report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

B. *GIS Department (Geographic Information System)*

1. *Monthly Report*

Sami Elarifi walked the committee through the report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

VII. County Board

Jeremy Englund reported the following information from County Board:

- He continues to visit the different departments to familiarize himself with their operational capacities. Interdepartmental discussions have started to streamline workflow efficiencies specific to services provided to our constituents.
- He also reported that he had been tasked with creating a social media presence for the County. As of March 1, 2024, everything was in place, including an archive system that downloaded everything historically from all the County social media platforms and would continue to download future activity. This system will allow the public to access a tool on the County website to conduct a FOIA request that will pull the information directly from the website. The Facebook page will be going live soon.
- Jeremy reported that the Broadband Breakthrough Committee had met virtually on March 6th and would be meeting again on March 13th. The committee is currently working on a Countywide Survey that will allow residents to participate in expressing their needs for the service.

VIII. County Clerk and Recorder's Office

A. *Monthly Report*

Nancy Peterson walked the committee through the report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

IX. IT Department (Information Technology)

A. *Monthly Report*

Paul Gorski was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a report. Jeremy Englund walked the committee through the report. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

X. LOTS (Lee-Ogle Transportation System)

A. *Monthly Report*

Greg Gates walked the committee through the report that he submitted. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

XI. ROE (Regional Office of Education #47)

A. *Monthly Report*

Chris Tennyson was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a report. The full report will be attached to a copy of the minutes and included in the March County Board agenda packet.

XII. Veterans Assistance

There was no report from Veterans Assistance.

XIII. Zoning / Planning

A. *Monthly Report*

Alice Henkel walked the committee through the report that she submitted. The full report will be attached to the minutes and included in the February County Board agenda packet.

Alice reported the following information that was not included in her report:

- During the hearing for Steward Creek Solar the use of battery energy storage was questioned because the County is currently under a moratorium for battery energy storage. Alice wanted to make sure that all the Board Members were aware that the moratorium was for stand-alone systems only. Last year when the state introduced their new citing standards for wind and solar, they allowed for battery energy storage as an accessory to a wind or solar project.
- Alice also addressed a board action request that was overlooked when compiling the agenda. The item could not be acted on since it was not on the agenda. However, it could be added to the County Board agenda during the Executive Committee Meeting later in the week. The request included the following revisions to the current building permit form:
  - The need for filling out a floodplain permit in addition to the Lee County permit for anyone intending to build in an area located in the floodplain
  - The addition of a field for the maximum height of a structure
  - Permit fees for transmission line poles
  - Permit fees for energy storage

B. *Petitions Going To the Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 Petition*

1. *Petition No. 24-P-1623 by Petitioner Irish Eyes Farms, LLC, regarding PINs 16-01-13-100-001 and 16-01-14-200-003, located in Palmyra Township. Description on attached petition.*

**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-1623 to the Executive Committee for Inclusion on the March County Board Agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

C. *Petitions Coming From the Zoning Board of Appeals - 1 Petition*

1. *Petition No. 23-P-1617 by Steward Creek Solar, LLC. PIN# on attached petition.*

**Motion** to move Petition 23-P-1617 along with the proposed resolution for the same petition to the Executive Committee for Inclusion on the March County Board Agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Reed Akre. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

D. *Petitions Going To the Planning Commission - 1 Petition*

1. *Petition No. 24-P-75 by Lee County Zoning Office for Text Amendments. See attached petition for specific requests.*

**Motion** to move Petition 24-P-75 to the Executive Committee for Inclusion on the March County Board Agenda. **Moved** by Dean Freil. **Second** by Ali Huss. **Motion** passed four (4) in favor one (1) opposed.

E. *Petitions Coming From the Planning Commission - None*

XIV. Unfinished Business

There were no items under Unfinished Business.

XV. New Business

There were no items under New Business.

XVI. Executive Session

There was no request for an Executive Session.

Before the committee adjourned, Logan Griswold shared with everyone the excitement and enthusiasm that he had for being part of the Broadband initiative. Working together as a team on a large-scale project was something he had not had a chance to be a part of.

XVII. Adjournment

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:42 a.m. **Moved** by Ron Gascoigne. **Second** by Dean Freil. **Motion** passed unanimously by voice vote.

The next County Services Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Becky Brenner - Board Secretary

Lee County Highway Department  
Report to the County Services Committee – MARCH 2024

The following represents a report of notable Highway Department activities and explanations of requested board actions:

**Status of Current Projects**

- Bid Letting on 3/8/2024, bid tabulations are on the County Website.

**Other:**

- NBIS Bridge Inspections are complete for the year.
- The department is cooperating with Dekalb and LaSalle Counties on a project to upgrade a series of roads to truck route status that ultimately ends at the Chicago Road and I-39 interchange. As such, we will be receiving \$145,800 from the State through the Truck Access Route Program (TARP). The total project cost is estimated at \$563,400 and will involve an HMA overlay and creation of 3' safety shoulders on Chicago Road from the Dekalb County line to the Village of Paw Paw (1.61 miles). IDOT requires three action items listed below.

**Board Action Items:**

- Joint Funding Agreement for State Participation
- Appropriation Resolution for County Matching Funds
- Resolution Establishing a Class II Truck Route
- Award Bids listed on attached Letting Summary

**Solid Waste**

Electronics collection is closed for the season and will reopen again in April. The contract is in place with Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations for recycling E-waste in 2024.



**MONTHLY ASSESSMENT OFFICE REPORT**  
**March 12, 2024 – County Services Committee**

- ❖ The Board of Review adjourned after hearings with 16 parcel owners regarding a total of 20 parcels out of the 77 parcels that had originally appealed.
- ❖ 2023 Tax Roll was rolled to Extensions on 3/6/2024. The process ran smoothly, and the Assessment Office can now start entering deed transfers, exemptions and assessments for 2024 into the DEVNET (taxing software).
- ❖ Currently we have one staff member completing the four core required courses online required to obtain the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer designation. The four core courses and two elective courses are required to obtain the designation.
- ❖ Started review of TrueRoll parcels in January. TrueRoll is a web application that monitors the county's tax roll for conflicts in homestead exemptions.
  - So far not quite half of the 1,954 parcels have been reviewed. Out of the 925 parcels reviewed, 202 have been found to have unqualified exemptions.
  - For the 2023 tax year the amount returned to taxable equalized assessed value so far is \$1,162,056.
  - More updates will follow once the review has been completed.
- ❖ The GIS Department has been working on some new tools to assist the Assessment Office that we are excited to implement.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Boyd, CIAO  
Chief County Assessment Officer/  
GIS Supervisor



**Monthly GIS Department Report**  
**March 7, 2024**

The GIS Department has been working on:

- Adding new tools to the Parcel Viewer webapp and creating an interactive dashboard to visualize trends in assessed values, average sales, sales ratio and change finder to provide valuable insights into GIS data and streamline the assessor's office workflows.
- Processing parcel splits and combination requests for January 2024.
- Maintaining and updating land use, zoning, and other GIS layers.
- Responding to several map printing and scanning requests.
- Maintaining and updating the 911 Flex map with the most recent information provided by the 911 Center.
- Preparing the municipality's boundary updates and responding to the U.S. Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) form.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sami Elarifi  
GIS Coordinator





**COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER**  
**REPORT FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETING**

Early voting is in my Election Department on the first floor of the Olds Courts Building from 8:15 to 4:15. We are open this Saturday which is March 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to Noon. Numbers good for early voting with over 300 voters.

We are always looking for Election Judges so if you know someone that would be a good fit please have them reach out to my election office.

**Primary is March 19, 2024.**

Economic Interest Forms went in the mail on Tuesday February the 6<sup>th</sup>. If for some reason you did not receive one see my office on the first floor. The deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup> to have them filed.

Just FYI Penny is no longer with Lee County and Insurance is being handled by Jeremy for now.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Petersen".

Nancy Petersen  
Lee County Clerk & Recorder



*IT Department*  
*Paul Gorski, IT Director*  
www.leecountyil.com

March 8, 2024

IT Board Report – March 2024

1. Current IT projects include:

- Old Courts - Completed Treasurer office move (back into repainted offices).
- LEC - Completed LEC bodycam networking upgrades (thank you Jeff Hilden and team).
- New Courts - Computers for New Courts, Tech Grant, arriving now, prepping now.
- New Courts - Starting SAO carpet installation moves (most heavy work done by Jeff Hilden's team).
- BEST Inc temp, Travis Null, started March 6, assisting with New Courts tech grant deployments and various other projects.

2. Upcoming projects include:

- New Courts - Coordinate IT upgrades to 4th floor court room build out with Courts staff, SAO and Maintenance.
- New Courts - Deploy New Courts Tech Grant computers after completing prep work.
- LEC - Assist with LEC security camera PC software upgrades, due April-May 2024.
- LEC – Deploy New laptops/Toughbooks and Microsoft Word on tablets.
- Organize Cybersecurity response team and response team plan.

Contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Paul Gorski  
IT Director  
Lee County, IL  
815-285-8166  
pgorski@countyoflee.org



**Report to County Services Committee of Lee County Board**

March 12, 2024 | 9:00 AM

**1) ROLLING 3-MONTH RIDE DATA**

	<b>December, 2023</b>	<b>January, 2024</b>	<b>February, 2024</b>	<b>Total for Period</b>
<b>RIDES</b>	<b>6,597</b>	<b>7,195</b>	<b>8,118</b>	<b>21,910</b>
<b>SERVICE HOURS</b>	<b>2,114</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>2,481</b>	<b>6,787</b>
<b>MILES OF SERVICE</b>	<b>54,154</b>	<b>58,542</b>	<b>69,573</b>	<b>182,189</b>
<b>FUEL COST</b>	<b>\$18,093.28</b>	<b>\$19,531.95</b>	<b>\$28,426.43</b>	<b>\$66,051.66</b>

**2) DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Reagan Mass Transit District**

- i) The Definitive Agreement, outlining the transition of assets to RMTD, has been reviewed by the Lee County State’s Attorney’s Office and currently in the hands of IDOT Administrative team for any final changes.
  - (1) The Definitive Agreement will be presented to the Lee County Board and Ogle County Board for their consideration.

**b) Budget/Contracts for FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025)**

- (1) Development of FY 2025 contracts is underway.
  - (2) Contract proposals are due into IDOT by April 1, 2024
  - (3) Contractual amounts for State Fiscal Year 2025 are as follows:
    - (a) 5311 Contract: \$283,450
    - (b) 5311F Contract (I-88): \$1,100,000 \*
    - (c) 5311F Contract (I-39): \$929,606 \*
    - (d) DOAP Contract: \$1,867,008
- \*These are being combined into a single contract by IDOT

**c) Rural Winnebago County Transit Services**

- i) The Winnebago County Board is continuing to work toward the launch of rural public transportation services on July 1, 2024.
  - (a) An Intergovernmental Agreement with Winnebago County is being completed to formalize the provision of transportation services.
  - (b) The formal request from Winnebago County for three (3) vehicles to be used in that county will be made in the coming weeks.
  - (c) The contractual budget proposed by IDOT for this new service is as follows:
    - (i) 5311 Contract: \$207,864
    - (ii) DOAP Contract: \$798,728

**d) Feasibility Studies: Dixon and Rochelle**

- i) Work has started with RLS and Associates on Feasibility Studies for Dixon and Rochelle.
  - (1) RLS was here in February and will be holding virtual meetings this month with stakeholders.
  - (2) The feasibility studies will consider the potential of creating fixed routes for the cities.
  - (3) The studies are running concurrently with completion by end of August, 2024.
  - (4) The feasibility Studies will include a technical assistance committee, review of existing data, key stakeholder interviews and public surveys.

**e) LOTS Awarded Funding to Complete SPR Funding on Transportation Needs**

- i) A contract between Lee County and State Planning and Research of IDOT has been executed for this two-year project with a budget of \$243,594.
- ii) This project will look at the general “transportation needs” of residents in Lee and Ogle Counties.
- iii) LOTS will partner with a university on the completion of this SPR grant.

**f) Vehicle Procurement**

- (1) Lee County / LOTS received word from IDOT that its 2022 CVP Application was awarded 6 of the 10 proposed vehicles.
  - (a) The vehicles, which will likely come in 2025, include two (2) minivans and four (4) light duty buses. Total value of these vehicles is more than \$600,000.
- (2) LOTS collaboration with IDOT on a federal proposal to the Low/No Emission Grants.
  - (a) LOTS will procure two (2) electric buses via this proposal
- (3) LOTS has submitted the order for two (2) electric vehicles to the Michigan Department of Transportation.

**g) Hydrogen Fuel Feasibility Study**

- i) In partnership with the University of Illinois (Urbana/Champaign), LOTS is continuing to assess potential partnerships for a study that will assess the feasibility of using hydrogen fuel cell vehicles in its rural operation along with the potential for production of the alternative fuel.
  - (1) The University of Illinois has expressed interest in this project as has other entities.

**h) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Oregon facility construction**

- i) Pre-award concurrence has been received from IDOT. Larson and Darby, an architectural firm out of Rockford, has been secured for the A&E process.
- ii) Architectural and Engineering firm has provided us with a 95% complete design of the Oregon facility. This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 1

**i) Architectural/Engineering Firm / Addition to Dixon Facility**

- i) An architectural and engineering firm – Willett Hoffman – was selected for the addition project on to the Reagan Transit Center.
- ii) Project includes development of new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room. Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex
- iii) This project is part of LOTS application under REBUILD Round 2

**3) OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS**

**a) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 1**

- i) Application includes Construction of new Oregon location
- ii) Furnishings and equipment for Oregon facility
- iii) Implementation of video surveillance cameras into 17 of LOTS' buses and minivans (completed)
- iv) Three (3) new buses (Ford transit type vehicles)

**b) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 2**

- (1) Notice of State Award being processed by IDOT
- (2) LOTS Proposal will allow for the following:
  - (a) Two electric vehicles for use in the LOTS system
  - (b) Three (3) new offices at Reagan Transit Center and secured file room/storage room
  - (c) Develop new Conference Room between Reagan Transit Center and Mechanical Bay
  - (d) Geothermal and Solar technologies will be incorporated into complex

**c) Capital Funding / REBUILD Round 3**

- i) IDOT announced that Lee County/LOTS will receive \$62,500 for the purchase of 2 service vehicles
- ii) The original proposal included the following:
  - (1) Add 72-feet onto the existing bus barn at Reagan Transit Center,
    - (a) This will provide for an additional twelve (12) slots for buses
  - (2) Add another bay onto the existing mechanical building
  - (3) Purchase service vehicles including one for maintenance



## Regional Office of Education Report

March 2024

### Compliance Season

Regional Offices of Education are entrusted with assessing compliance of local school districts and recognized non-public schools in the state of Illinois. This process consists of a systematic review of district documentation and recording compliance with state and federal laws and Illinois School Code. The resulting designation is reported on the state website and as part of the Illinois Report Card.

The compliance process is seen as an opportunity to improve operations and support the programs that deliver quality educational experiences to students. Our school districts are on a 4 year evaluation cycle with compliance. This year we are conducting compliance reviews for Sterling School District, Kings School District, Eswood School District, and Creston School District.

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

<b>Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning &amp; Educational Services</b>
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant/IDPH Trauma Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing, Health Science & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A
Early Childhood Professional Learning

Family Education & Engagement

NEXUS Family Support Services

Student Attendance

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement**

- A full schedule of Professional Learning is available on our website: [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
- A provider survey was deployed in January 2024 in order to collect current screening and program enrollment data for early childhood programming in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. This data is being used to better understand program opening and needs within each community. Data collected includes: Number of student slots, Number of students on waiting list, number of screenings completed, referrals made to Head Start, cycle of program monitoring, and feedback on how coordinated intake can help with the program waiting list. The Early Childhood Capacity Builder has also visited 2 school district Preschool for All programs to work with teachers and administrators to prepare for monitoring visits.
- ROE 47 Early Childhood team, ROE 47 Pathways team, Sauk Valley Community College and Head Start are continuing conversations related to support for incumbent workforce and future educators who may need additional support and networking to promote persistence and degree/credential completion.
- ROE 47 School Improvement team staff members are working intensively with six districts on continuous school improvement.
- The office of Professional Learning & Educational Services deployed an Educator needs assessment survey in January 2024 to assess and better understand trauma, social emotional and other professional learning needs in the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside county service area.
- Trauma 101 and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training is available for registration on our website.
- Upcoming and ongoing professional learning opportunities through our office includes: Librarians Networking, School Counselor & Social Worker Networking, Social Studies training, Targeted Improvement to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners (Special Education), monthly networking for special education teachers, 2 cohorts of Developing Special Education Leaders, Transformational Leadership Academy, new teacher cadre, quarterly administrator meetings, quarterly pathway implementation sessions, and more!

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach**


- Approximately 100 high school freshmen have been nominated to participate in our first Student Leadership Summit at the McCormick Event Center on March 15, 2024
- Family Educators and the Coordinated Intake Specialist have attended over 36 community events and reached over 10,000 families with parent-child activities, educational materials, and links to EC programs and community services through our IRIS referral platform. In FY24, from July 1 - January 1, 2024, the office has hosted or participated in community events that facilitated parent-child interaction and heightened awareness of EC opportunities, including:
  - Back to School Bash (125 participants)
  - Paw Paw Back to School Bash (100 participants)
  - Taste of Fiesta (Sterling) (500 participants)
  - Prophetstown BlockFest (11 children)
  - Ogle County Baby Shower (75 families)
  - Lee County Baby Shower (8 families)
  - Trunk or Treat - Sterling (October 25): 500 children
  - Trunk or Treat - Dixon (October 25): 475 children
  - Build A Pet Clubhouse - November 4: 31 children
  - PLT Preschool Parent Education Event - November 6: 27 parents
  - Polo Christmas - December 2: 190 children
  - Sterling Sites & Sounds - December 1: 450 children
  - Blockfest (Sterling Public Schools Early Childhood): 18 families
  - Blockfest (Oregon) - January 20: 12 families, 25 children
  - Virtual Baby Shower - January 24: 8 expectant mothers; 9 community organizations
  - Empowered Parents Session 1 - January 22: 15 caregivers
- Our family educators have been trained in facilitating Parent Cafes. These will begin virtually in April 2024.
- Blockfest, Mindful Trails and Slumberkins resources are available for check out to schools and agencies
- Looking for volunteer opportunities? Our family educators are seeking volunteers to help in assembling approximately 1,000 community outreach bags each month. Outreach bags are distributed to ROE 47 schools and families and contain an activity, information
- A monthly digital family newsletter has been developed and deployed through Mail Chimp on a monthly basis. Newsletters include parenting information, community family events, early childhood programming and service information, and other important links. Parents/caregivers can subscribe to the ROE Family Newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/2cde621b466f/family-sign-up>
- Over 1,000 community outreach bags have been distributed to area preschools, food banks, and shelters. Outreach bags include a personal care item, information on family events and community resources, community agencies, a parent-child activity card, and an activity for parents and children to do together.
- The Family Education & Engagement Specialist is hosting an “Empowered Parenting” series - a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. Sessions will address behaviors, emotional regulation, and strategies parents can use at home.

## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media

The department's social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47

Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube!

## Upcoming Events



**MARCH 1**  
**8:30-1:30**


Tetten's Grain  
1684 Nachusa Rd  
Dixon

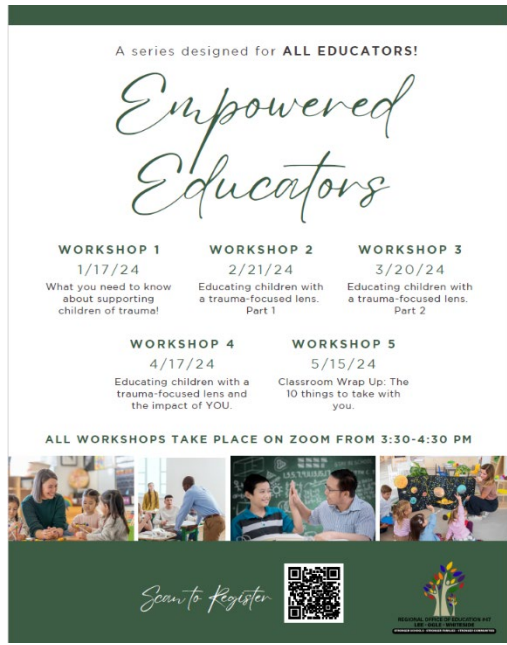
cultivating connections in  
*agriculture*

**What to Expect**  
A successful secondary agriculture program requires more than a classroom. Dive in to the world of agriculture education, careers, and leadership development with high school agriculture teachers, current students, and local success stories - men and women who experienced the benefits of agriculture education and the FFA organization. Consider this a review or an introduction to Illinois' well-established agriculture education family.

**Details**  
Check-in 8 a.m. Program begins 8:30 a.m.  
Refreshments & lunch provided  
CPDs offered  
Open to admin, counselors, school board, FFA alumni  
Questions? Contact the committee:  

- John Heiser, District 1 FCAE Program Advisor: jheiser@lged.org
- Katie Pratt, Lee Co. AITC coordinator: aitc.leecfbcomcast.net
- Stacey Dinges, Pathways Navigator, ROE #47: sdinges@roe47.org
- Ashleigh Erbes, Lee Co. Farm Bureau manager: leecfbcomcast.net

RSVP & Register by Feb. 22. Scan Code 




A series designed for **ALL EDUCATORS!**

*Empowered Educators*

<p><b>WORKSHOP 1</b> 1/17/24 What you need to know about supporting children of trauma!</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 2</b> 2/21/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 1</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 3</b> 3/20/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 2</p>
<p><b>WORKSHOP 4</b> 4/17/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens and the impact of YOU.</p>	<p><b>WORKSHOP 5</b> 5/15/24 Classroom Wrap Up: The 10 things to take with you.</p>	

**ALL WORKSHOPS TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM FROM 3:30-4:30 PM**

*Scan to Register* 

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
1684 NACHUSA RD  
DIXON, IL 62521



6TH ANNUAL  
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUMMIT  
*Building a Community*  
OF BELONGING



*Dr. Alonzo Kelly*  
Keynote Speaker

Calling all educators, counselors, administrators, and anyone passionate about empowering children and youth! Dive into a transformative Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools.

**MARCH 14, 2024**  
**8:30AM - 3:00PM**  
**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP** SUMMIT



*Dr. Alonzo Kelly*  
Keynote Speaker

This summit isn't just about passively absorbing information—it's about actively engaging and transforming the way we perceive and articulate our thoughts.

Dr. Alonzo Kelly will ignite our minds and challenge us to break free from conventional patterns of thinking. Through an exploration of the six modalities of learning, he will empower you to embrace diverse perspectives and harness the power of our voices like never before.

**MARCH 15, 2024**  
**9:00AM - 1:00PM**  
**McCormick Event Center**  
**Rock Falls, IL**  
*Lunch provided at the summit  
Transportation is provided by school*



*Preschool make n takes!*  
**Upcoming Events**

<b>FEB 6</b> 3:30-4:30 <i>Valentines Day!</i>	<b>MARCH 4</b> 3:30-4:30 <i>Healthy foods!</i>	<b>APR 15</b> 3:30-4:30 <i>Spring!</i>
<b>MAY 6</b> 3:30-4:30 <i>Building!</i>	<b>JUNE 3</b> 3:30-4:30 <i>Summer!</i>	

The Regional Office of Education is going to be hosting "make n take" zooms once a month. The purpose of these are to give our educators ideas that they can bring into the classroom! From different crafts to activities, our Early Childhood Coach will cover many different options! Each month will be a different theme. Please reach out to Ashley Teel if you have questions! ateel@roe47.org

*A training for all individuals who work or engage with children*

**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID**

*"Just one person can make in a young person's life by simply asking, 'Are you OK?'"*

<b>March 21</b> 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. Virtual	<b>April 10</b> 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. Sterling Township	<b>May 2</b> 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. Ogle County TBD
<b>June 6</b> 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. SVCC	<b>July 25</b> 8:30 - 2:30 p.m. ROE 47	

Scan to Register

To request a training for your organization, email [agarza@roe47.org](mailto:agarza@roe47.org)

**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.65.1495  
www.roe47.org @regionoffice47 @LOWROE47 @ROE4731



# EMPOWERED PARENT SERIES

*"A 3-part series designed for parenting all ages and in all stages."*

**About:**  
The Empowered Parenting Series is a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. We will be addressing behaviors, assisting your child with emotional regulation, and gaining a new toolbox full of strategies for your home.

**Dates:**  
Monday, January 22 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, February 12 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, March 18 from 7-8 PM

**Where:**  
Online Zoom Event  
Zoom link will be sent after you register.

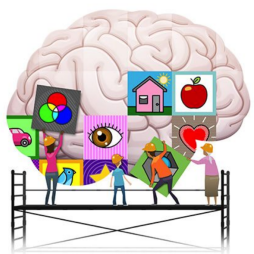
**REGISTER TODAY!**  
Participants who register and participate in all sessions will have the opportunity to win a gift card.

Scan to Register  
or text (815) 764-1194

For more information,  
Email: gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org



A Family Education & Engagement Event



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

# BUILDING OUR CHILDREN'S BRAINS

*"You have a superpower - the ability to have a colossal and positive impact on their child's developing brain."*

**ABOUT:**  
Dive into the wonders of brain development through the interactive Brain Architecture Game. Discover how experiences shape the brain and learn practical strategies to support your child's growth and well-being while connecting with other parents and caregivers.

*Childcare available!*

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
All participants who attend this event will be entered into a raffle.

**APRIL 22**  
**5:30-7:00 PM**  
*A meal will be served from 5:00-5:25PM*

**STERLING TOWNSHIP**  
505 W LYNN BLVD. | STERLING, IL 61081

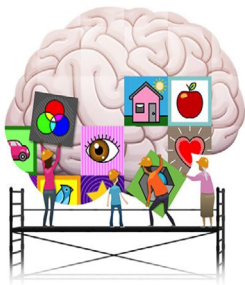
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**APRIL 23**  
**5:30-7:00 PM**  
*A meal will be served from 5:00-5:25PM*

**BYRON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
100 S WASHINGTON ST | BYRON, IL 61010

Scan to Register  
or text (815) 764-1194

For more information,  
Email: gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org

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# COMMUNITY PARENT CAFÉS CONNECTION

*Sharing our stories to help take care of ourselves and our families*

# I AM A SUPER-PARENT STRONG & FLEXIBLE

*Our Parent Cafés are FREE!*

**JOIN US**



Register by scanning the QR code  
or text 815.764.1194

**APRIL 8**  
**7:00 PM**  
**ONLINE (ZOOM)**  
*A LINK WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO THE EVENT*

*Parent Cafés are events that encourage positive community connections and empower parents.*

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite B | Sterling, IL | 815.625.1495

www.roe47.org @regionaloffice47 @LOWROE47 @ROE4731

## Free Birth to Five Developmental Screening

### 1st Thursday of each month!

**What is a developmental screening?**  
A developmental screening is a tool that takes a closer look at how your child is developing.

**Why is it important?**

- Screenings help families understand their child's development.
- Screenings show important milestones and identify possible concerns as early as possible. Research tells us that the sooner a developmental concern is identified, the better. Early identification leads to early support and services that can improve a child's development and help them be their best.
- It's recommended! The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends all children be screened at least once a year.
  - Screenings are a great way to make sure that your child is developing on track for their age. You can learn about your child's strengths and ways to support their healthy development.
  - Screenings can also help determine if your child needs extra help or further evaluation. Our staff specializes in helping families who have concerns about their child's development. They can answer your questions and connect you to local resources.

**Schedule a developmental screening**  
Scan the QR code and complete the registration form or call (815) 625-1495 and ask for Aimee.



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47  
1200 SOUTH WASHINGTON  
AMBOY, IL 61310

A Project of the Sauk Valley STARS Early Childhood Coalition.




**SATURDAY, MARCH 2**  
**9:00 – 11:00 AM**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
960 US-52, Amboy, IL 61310

BLOCK Fest®, families have the opportunity to play with five varieties of non-interlocking blocks, designing and building structures and deconstructing what they've built!



More Information    Email: gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org  
Text: 815-764-1194

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events**

Check out ALL of our opportunities [HERE](#)  
February & March 2024 Schedule of Events

<b>3/5/2024 - 5/7/2024</b>	<a href="#"><u>Developing Leadership in Special Education (Year One)</u></a>	<b>ROE #47 (In-person)</b>
<b>3/13/2024</b>	<a href="#"><u>Special Educators Cohort</u></a>	<b>Online (Zoom)</b>
<b>3/14/2024</b>	<a href="#"><u>SEL Summit</u></a>	<b>SVCC (In-person)</b>
<b>3/21/2024</b>	<a href="#"><u>Youth Mental Health First Aid</u></a>	<b>Online (Zoom)</b>

**February 2024 Participants - 285**

Friday, February 2

Practical Strategies for Implementing UDL@ SVCC

Tuesday, February 6

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners @ ROE #47

Ed Pathways Cohort 4 @ 3:15 p.m.

LETRS Training @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 7

Literacy Plan Roundtable @ SVCC

Thursday, February 8

Social Science Quarterly Networking Session @ ROE #47

Health Sciences (Pathways) Networking Session @ 3:15 pm

Friday, February 9

Virtual Pathways for College & Career Readiness Summit @ 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 13

Ed Pathways Cohort 2 & 3 @ 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14

Special Educators Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Deanery School Improvement Networking Session @ Newman Catholic High School

Thursday, February 15

Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 20

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 21

Empowered Educators Series @ 3:30 pm

Whole Child, Whole Life (Spring Book Study) @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 22

Administrator Networking Session @ 9:00 a.m.

Tuesday, February 27

Developing Leadership in Special Education (Year Two) @ ROE #47

Xello Training @ 3:15 p.m.

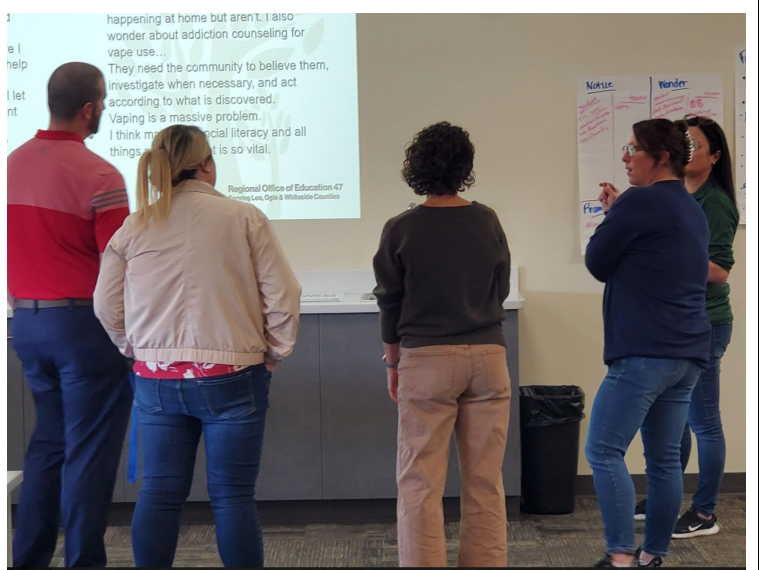
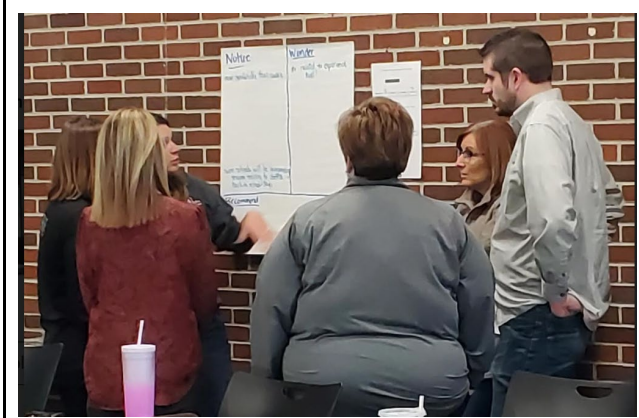
Wednesday, February 28

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking Session @ 9:00 am

Thursday, February 29

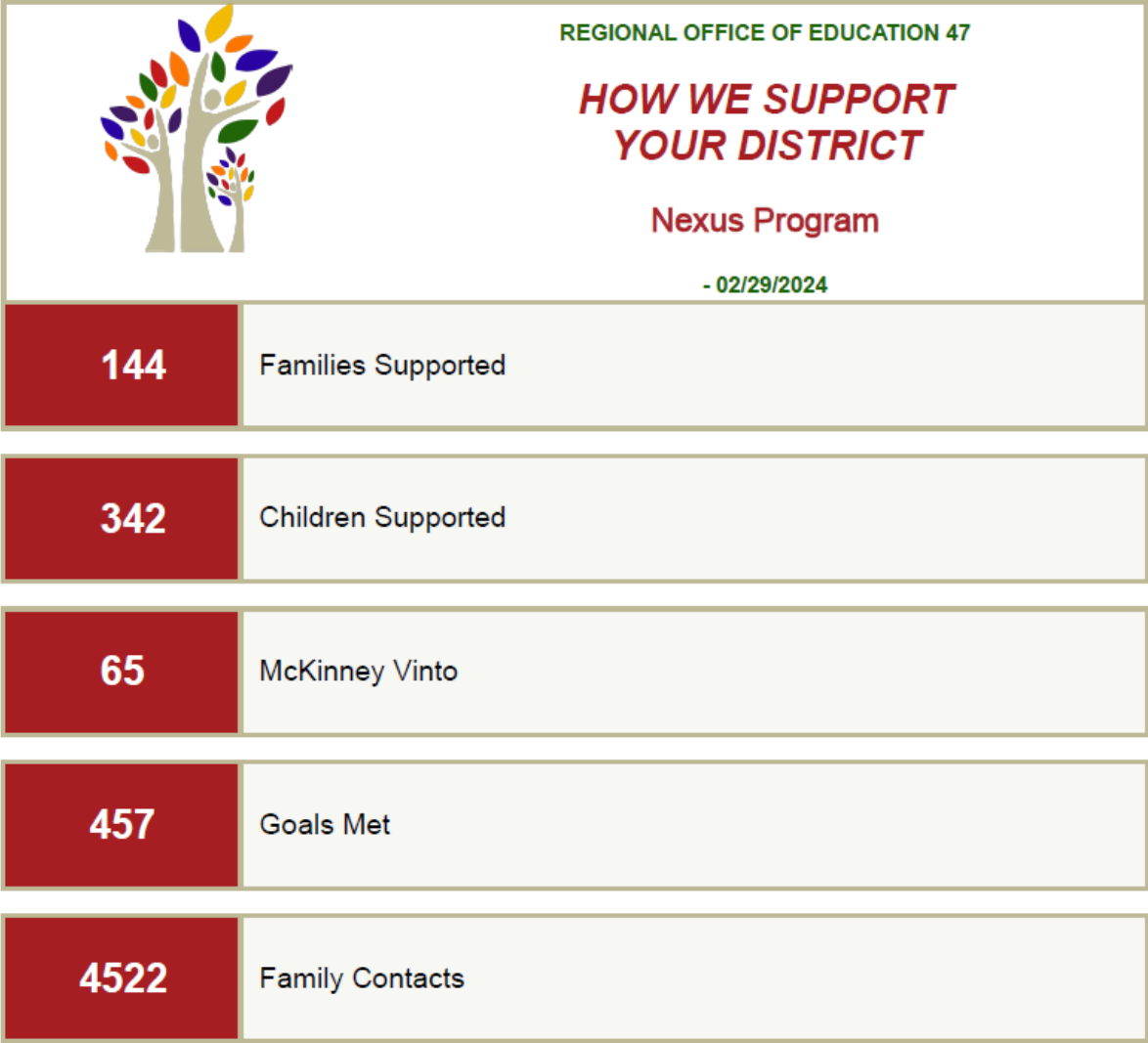
Transformational Leadership Academy Series @ SVCC

**February 2024 in Photos:**

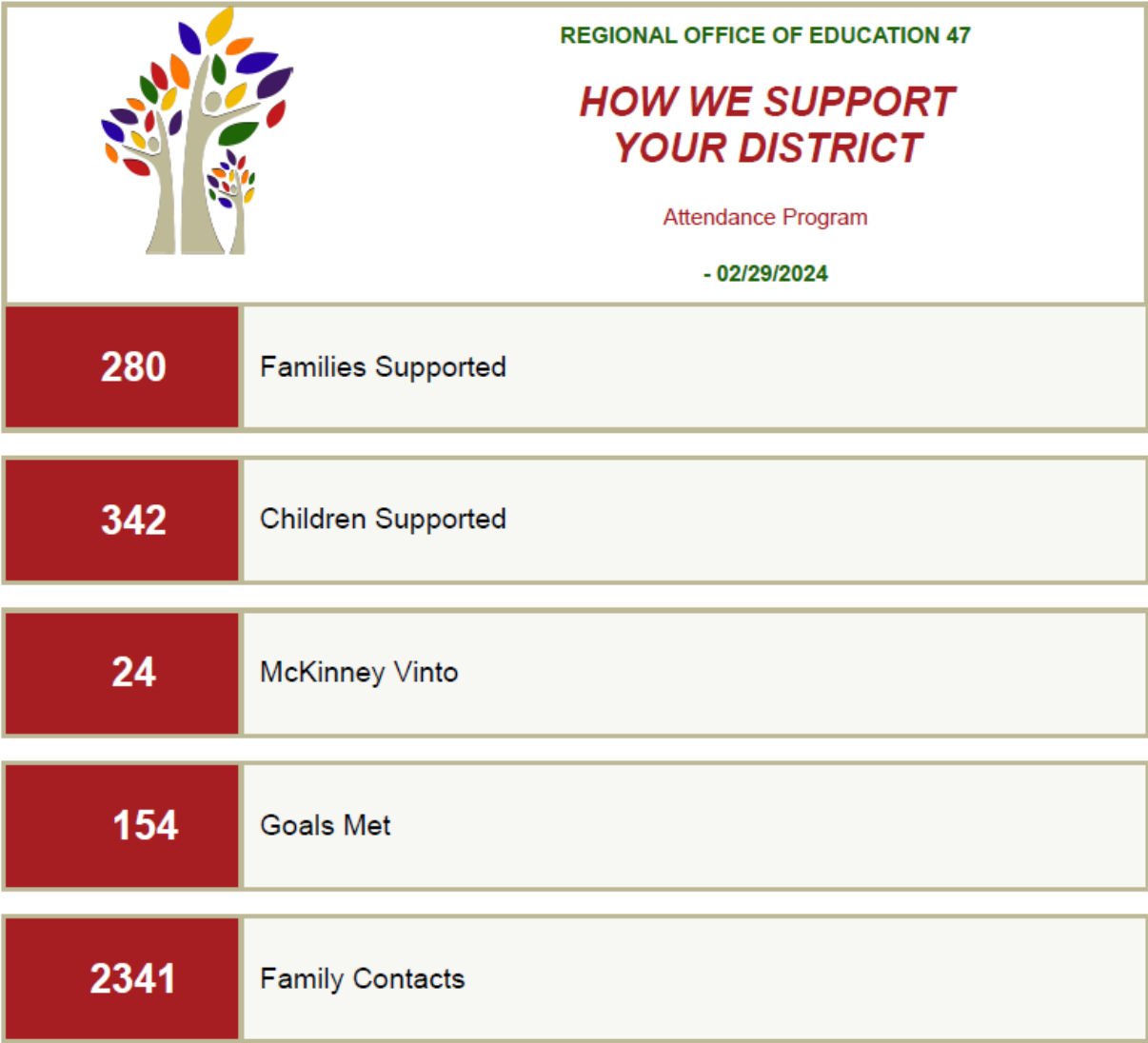


Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

Our team has been working hard to convert all of our data into a new custom-built data system for our entire professional development team, specifically, our student support team. With this new system, we can provide quicker data snapshots of the program. It has been a long process, but we are happy with the results and possibilities. This data snapshot is for the Nexus program. It changes often and rapidly with the work our team is doing daily.



Similar to Nexus, we have started a new system to pull data. This program has taken time to create but will allow for both programs to work more efficiently and be able to make meaningful programmatic decisions based on our local regional data.



## Parents as Teachers First Years

Parents as Teachers First Years is excited to announce that we have been awarded one of the seven "Investing in the Power of Families" initiative grants awarded in Illinois!

Our award focuses on workforce development. The goal is to improve employee knowledge and skills, enhance program quality, and equip home visitors with additional tools and interventions that they can use to provide more effective support to families while supporting parent educators' well-being as they address stressful topics with families. We also want to provide staff members with less than a Bachelor's level of education with an incentive to complete additional classes towards the attainment of a BA in Early Childhood Education.

Parents as Teachers National Center recently issued the following statement: "We're proud to announce the launch of our "Investing in the Power of Families" initiative with grants totaling \$1.75 million. This funding will support 62 affiliate organizations, empowering them to make a difference for families nationwide. This three-pronged initiative aims to restore family enrollments in affiliates' home visiting services, enhance mental and physical health support services, and foster systemic positive changes through engaged parent leaders. ❤️

👨👩👧👦 Read more about our efforts:

<https://parentsasteachers.org/investinginthepoweroffamilies/>

**parents as teachers**

**INVESTING IN THE POWER OF FAMILIES**

**62**  
**ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED**

**\$1.75M**  
**AWARDED**

**Congratulations,  
Recipients!**



## Education Outreach Program

February was a busy month for our EOP students. With warmer weather comes transitions in many different ways. Most of our students are working towards GED testing and earning their diplomas, while many others are fighting to find employment opportunities. EOP and BEST, Inc. have been working diligently to place our students in Job Shadows or Work Experience opportunities to help transition from education to the workforce. We currently have 6 students working with BEST. We also have 4 students enrolled in Certification programs at Sauk Valley Community College with 4 more students interested in Welding and Truck Driver Training for the next semester.

One of our students, Chase, has been recognized as an Honors student and was asked to participate in creating an Honors Project with his instructors at SVCC. Chase was also awarded the Achievement Certificate and entered on the President's List as he has held a 4.00 in all of his Multi-Craft courses for the Fall Semester.



February was Financial Literacy month for our students as well. With our program, we are always encouraging our students to reach out about assistance with anything from where to cash a check to budgeting and have noticed a need to address some basic financial information. We asked Logan from Community State Bank in Sterling to come in and meet with some of our students. Logan was able to explain how banking at a smaller, local branch can be helpful. He was also able to explain the different services offered, banking fees, loans and interest rates.

EOP also would like to recognize Jerod for earning his Illinois High School Diploma through the Alternative Credentialing method. Congratulations **Jerod!** We currently have 12 students with only 1 GED test left to pass, 14 new enrollments and 6 graduates.

## McKinney Vento Homeless Program

Services continue to flow to our Districts with the hopes of keeping our students engaged and supported with their educational struggles. With the end result being, educational success. FAFSA, which is financial support for students entering and involved with Post Secondary education, is a vital key for our McKinney Vento Students. Unfortunately, this federal program continues to be delayed at the federal level. This greatly impairs and drives the success of college selection. It especially involves the financial support that is greatly needed. Work will continue as this program progresses. Support for a wide range of educational needs continues to be needed and provided to the best of our ability.

## Regional Center for Change

The theme for February was "Share the Love and Black History Month." The school calendar has been updated and reflects a new end-of-third quarter date, March 19th! Twenty students achieved Phoenix Rising status in February, and we hope to see many more students achieving this amazing goal in March!

### WHAT IS ONEBOX?

The ONEbox (TM) is an emergency opioid overdose reversal kit designed to promote safety by assuring that individuals have life-saving, on-demand training when and where they need it. C4C is now equipped to provide emergency opioid overdose Narcan with ONEbox. The ONEbox kit is located in the main office above the medication safe. Angie, Ashley, and Mark are trained to provide this life-saving medication.

### GUEST SPEAKER!!!!

We are finalizing a guest speaker to come to C4C sometime in April after state testing. The Juvenile Justice Council is sponsoring this dynamic and motivational speaker. The theme for his presentation will focus on our motto, "we are the center for change, not center for staying the same". Check out the link below for more info.

### ICEARY

We are so excited to have the opportunity to send all of our C4C staff to the ICEARY conference in Bloomington Normal on March 7th and 8th. This conference offers exceptional professional learning opportunities with uplifting keynote speakers, relevant breakout sessions, and opportunities to exchange ideas with professionals nationwide. Attendees will walk away with new learning strategies, inspiring reflections, opportunities to grow professional networks, and practical strategies.

<https://www.yogiinspires.com/>

### Important Dates in February

February 19th - No School

February 29th - Doors judged for Door Decorating Contest

March 1st - Assembly Virtual 8:45 am

February Birthdays!

Staff:

February 12th Bret Tegeler

February 14th Seth Sanderson

February 23rd Shandy Adams

February 28th Mandy Smith



MONTHLY ZONING AND PLANNING REPORT
March 12, 2024 – County Services Committee

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- 1. Petition No. 23-P-1617 by Steward Creek Solar, LLC, PINs:

Table with 5 columns of PIN numbers: 01-06-28-300-001, 01-06-13-100-003, 21-12-15-200-046, 01-06-22-200-002, 21-12-02-100-001, etc.

Petitioner is seeking a special use permit for the purpose of a commercial solar energy facility (CSEF).

ACTIONS GOING TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

- 1. Petition No. 24-P-1623 by Petitioner Irish Eyes Farms, LLC, regarding PINs 16-01-13-100-001 and 16-01-14-200-003, located in Palmyra Township. The parcel is currently zoned Ag-1, Rural/Agricultural District. Petitioner is requesting a Special Use Permit for the purpose of a 5 MW Commercial Solar Energy Facility (community solar).

ACTIONS COMING FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION – None

ACTIONS GOING TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

- 1. Petition No. 24-P-75 by Lee County Zoning Office, a petition to amend the text of Chapter 5: Residential Districts, Article B: Single-Family Residential District, Section 6: Restrictions, under Title 10: Zoning Regulations, of the Lee County Code of Ordinances. The proposed text amendment would create regulations for the limited raising, housing and/or keeping of chickens in the R-2, Single Family Residential District.

OTHER ACTIONS FROM THE ZONING OFFICE

Deputy Zoning Administrator Laura Mangrum has been preparing for the Certified Floodplain Manager exam. As part of her preparation, she will be attending the FEMA Emergency Management



Institute in Maryland from March 10 to March 14, 2024. The course she will be attending is “Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program,” and it is considered the “gold standard” for floodplain training. The course is free, and Laura was awarded a scholarship that will reimburse her airfare for the trip. Her room is also free as she will be staying on campus. On Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Laura will take the exam in Naperville. It is an intensive, closed-book exam; however, the results are instant. I wish the best on this endeavor.

On March 22, 2024, the Zoning Office will have its first visit from the National Floodplain Insurance Program. This visit is the first step for Lee County entering the Community Rating System (CRS) program, and they will be reviewing building permits that have been issued for properties located in the floodplain. The CRS program allows a community to earn points for going above and beyond the minimum floodplain regulations. As the County earns points, it will move up a level. The lowest level is 0 and the highest level is 10. Every time the County moves up a level, the residents of unincorporated Lee County will see a 5% reduction in their flood insurance premiums. At the highest level, residents can see a 45% reduction.

During the month of February 2024, the Zoning Office processed twenty-four (24) building permits (7 residential solar permits, 1 fence permit, 3 Ag building permits, 5 Woodhaven building permits, 5 building permits for accessory structures, and 3 building permits for cell tower alteration), and permit fees in the amount of \$6,110.18 were collected.